(vii) National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management to be set up; Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur to be developed into a National level institute.

(viii) Custom duty on packaging machines reduced to 5 per cent.

(ix) Excise duty on condensed milk, ice cream, preparations of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast is fully exempt.

(x) Excise duty on ready-to-eat packaged foods and instant food mixes, like dosa and idli mixes, reduced to 8 percent.

(xi) Excise duty on aerated drinks reduced to 16 per cent.

(xii) Excise duty on packaging paper reduced to 12 per cent.

Quality of packed food products

2423. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the introduction of an integrated food law and also to amend the Mandi Act for better monitoring of the quality food products to help the farmers;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether the proposed legislation has any stringent punitive clauses for violating food laws, particularly packed food; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) An Integrated Food Law which is named as "Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2006" introduced by Ministry of Food Processing Industries in Parliament on 25.8.2005 has been passed by Parliament on 2.8.2006. The Bill aims to achieve the following: (i) to consolidate the laws relating to food; (ii) to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food; (iii) regulate manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of articles of food to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption; (v) pool infrastructure, manpower, and testing facilities for better standard fixation and enforcement through their proper re-deployment.

(c) and (d) The Bill provides graded penalties as per gravity of offences. Stringent punishment has been provided for "unsafe food." The Bill provides that any person who, whether by himself or by any other person on his behalf manufactures for sale or stores or sells or distributes or imports any article of food including packed foods for human consumption which is unsafe, shall be punishable with imprisonment varying from three to six month and also with fine varying from one to ten lakh.

Setting up of National Institute of Food Technology and Management

2424. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up National Institute of Food Technology and Management;

(b) if so, what is its estimated cost; and

(c) by when the Institute is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) the setting up of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) was announced in the Union Budget 2006-07. Ministry of Food Processing Industries propses to set up the Institute with an estimated cost of Rs. 244.6 crores and make it partially operational this year, after obtaining necessary clearances.

Extra curricular activities in Government schools

2425. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3042 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th May, 2006 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite availability of infrastructure, facilities of extra curricular activities are not being made available to all the students;